

8. A WHITE COOT AT KANEWAL, GUJARAT

We saw a white Coot *Fulica atra* amongst a total of 9100 black Coots feeding in the water on December 29, 1994 at Kanewal reservoir (22° 30' N, 72° 32' E) Kheda district, Gujarat. There were a few black splashes on the upper neck, wing coverts and tail region. A black line extended behind the eye on both the sides. The beak appeared light yellow as against pinkish white of normal black Coots. This white Coot was a member of a small group/flock of normal black Coots. There was no conspicuous difference in the feeding behaviour of the white

individual nor did the normal individuals react differently to it. Earlier, we had seen one white Coot on January 13, 1988 at Pariej (22° 33' N, 72° 38' E) Kheda district, Gujarat.

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9. AN ALBINO REDVENTED BULBUL *PYCNONOTUS CAFER*

As a part of the survey of potential sites for reintroduction of the Asiatic lion, during May 1994 I visited Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary near Kota in Rajasthan. The sanctuary is only 3-5 km wide and about 80 km long. Close to the Arampur rest house, the Forest Department has constructed a hide overlooking two cemented water holes. Everyday after our field work, I used to sit inside the hide and watch the birds coming to the water hole. I recorded 21 species. The Redvented Bulbuls (*Pycnonotus cafer*) were the most abundant. On the second day of our stay, soon after we had returned from field at about 1330 hrs, I was attracted by a white bird which flew past the rest house and landed near the water hole. Immediately, I ran with my binoculars to the hide and saw a white bulbul. Its head was pale brown

in colour, with rest of the body white and vent red. It was an albino Redvented bulbul. It bathed along with other redvented bulbuls and spotted doves (*Streptopelia chinensis*). I took a photograph. It flew and sat on a bamboo clump nearby due to the disturbance caused by the clicking of the camera. After 7 minutes it flew and disappeared into the *Anogeissus pendula* mixed forest. The next day also I saw the albino bulbul at 1340 hrs. at the water hole. During my five days at Darrah I saw this bird twice.

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10. ATTEMPTS OF FEMALE MAGPIE ROBIN TO CATCH A FISH

On 24 January, 1995 at about 1100 hrs, I was returning from the Kamalnath Reserve forest of Jhadol Range in Udaipur district. At the foothills, I observed a female Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis* trying to catch a small fish in the shallow water of a hillstream. After a few attempts, it succeeded in picking it up in its bill but the fish quickly escaped and slipped into the water. The Robin again tried to

catch it. While it was busy with the fish, a stray dog appeared and disturbed the Magpie robin which flew away.

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